

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

The Three Battlegrounds
External

Explanation Of The World

Matthew 13:34 Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.

35 This fulfilled the prophecy that said, "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain mysteries hidden since the creation of the world."

Romans 1:20 From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

Culture

1 Corinthians 2:12 And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

James 1:27 Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.

1 Corinthians 3:18 Stop fooling yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you will have to become a fool so you can become wise by God's standards.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "God catches those who think they are wise in their own cleverness."

1 Corinthians 7:23 God purchased you at a high price. Don't be enslaved by the world.

We Live In An Evil World

Luke 16:15 Then he said to them, "You like to look good in public, but God knows your evil hearts. What this world honors is an abomination in the sight of God.

1 John 2:15 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you.

16 For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.

17 And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.

Galatians 1:4 He died for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

Titus 2:12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God,

13 while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.

John 16:9 The world's sin is unbelief in me.

How Does God Expect Us To Live

We Don't _____ To The World

Hebrews 13:14 For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our city in heaven, which is yet to come.

2 Peter 3:13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world where everyone is right with God.

14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to live a pure and blameless life. And be at peace with God.

We Must _____ Of The World's Influence

1 Corinthians 7:30 Happiness or sadness or wealth should not keep anyone from doing God's work.

31 Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away.

Colossians 2:7 Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.

8 Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ.

We Must _____ In The Church

1 Timothy 3:14 I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon,

15 so that if I can't come for a while, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and support of the truth.

16 Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ appeared in the flesh and was shown to be righteous by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and was announced to the nations. He was believed on in the world and was taken up into heaven.

Ephesians 5:23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior.

24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her

26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word.

27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

John 13:35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

We Are To _____ Appropriately

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

1 John 5:3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and really, that isn't difficult.

4 For every child of God defeats this evil world by trusting Christ to give the victory.

5 And the ones who win this battle against the world are the ones who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:21 Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

James 4:4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God.

5 What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful?

We Are To Shine _____

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world - like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see.

15 Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all.

16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

John 8:12 Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Philippians 2:14 In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing,

15 so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.